



**MOSQUITO and VECTOR MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
of Santa Barbara County**

DISEASE SURVEILLANCE REPORT

May 2019

Live Mosquito-Borne Virus Surveillance

Unseasonably cooler and wet weather and understaffing curtailed trapping this month. Four surveys using CO₂ traps were conducted as presented below.

Location	Date	Number of Mosquitoes	Number of Traps	Mosquitoes per Trap Night	Pools Submitted	Result
San Luis Obispo County						
Laguna Lake	5/29 – 5/30	23	5	4.6	N	--
Stenner Creek Rd.	5/29 – 5/30	21	2	10.5	N	--
Islay Park	5/29 – 5/30	43	5	8.6	Y	Pending
YMCA	5/29 – 5/30	0	2	NA	--	--

West Nile Virus Dead Bird Submissions

There were no Dead Bird Hotline submissions for Santa Barbara County in May. No other West Nile virus activity was detected in the county. No human cases of WNV infection in California were reported in 2019 as of May 31.

St. Louis Encephalitis Virus Activity

As of May 31, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has not reported any cases of SLEV disease in California this year although 2 mosquito pools from Tulare County reported positive for SLEV the week of May 25. This is the first detection of SLEV activity in California for 2019. SLEV activity has never been confirmed in Santa Barbara County.

Zika Virus and Invasive *Aedes* Mosquito Update

As of June 7, there have been 722 travel-associated Zika virus infections in California since 2015. Four new infections were reported in May. Neither yellow fever mosquitoes, *Aedes aegypti*, nor Asian tiger mosquitoes, *Ae. albopictus*, have ever been detected in Santa Barbara County, to date.

Sentinel Chicken Flocks

The District currently maintains 4 sentinel chicken flocks in Santa Barbara County. Those located at the Carpinteria Sanitary District, Goleta Sanitary District, and the Solvang City Wastewater Treatment Plant have been part of active surveillance since sampling began in mid-April. Blood samples collected on 4/29, 4/30, 5/13, 5/14, and 5/28 all tested negative for the presence of WNV, SLEV and WEE. A new flock was placed at the Mission Hills Sanitary District on 5/28. A new flock will be deployed the week of June 10 at the Los Prietos Ranger Station on Paradise Rd. in the Los Padres National Forest.



Photo credit: Centers for Disease Control; B. Partin and Jimmy Stewart



Mosquito fish, *Gambusia* species

These tiny fish, native to the southern U.S., are close relatives of the common guppy. Though small, they are voracious predators that can consume their own weight in mosquito larvae every day. They also will prey on their own young, which are born live. Mosquito fish have been introduced into fresh waters around the world for the biological control of mosquitoes, especially those species that vector malaria and yellow fever. Mosquito fish are available from the District free of charge to the public living in our enhanced and basic service areas.